FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1987

Israel

At the end of a lengthy meeting the Inner Cabinet announced its decision to establish a two-member "probing committee" into the Pollard affair. The Inner Cabinet communique, broadcast by Jerusalem radio, explained that this decision was made because of the "special significance" of the case and noted that the investigators will submit their findings to the cabinet plenum. The cabinet will also assist the subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in its inquiries into the Pollard affair, the communique added.

Regarding the authority of the Inner Cabinet's probing committee, Jerusalem radio noted that it does not have the enforcement powers of an inquiry commission as it cannot subpoena witnesses and its recommendations will not be legally binding. While the radio said the committee would comprise former Chief of Staff Tzvi Tzur and former Supreme Court President Moshe Landau, IDF radio subsequently disclosed that Landau is unwilling to serve and that efforts are underway to find a replacement. As for the political background to the cabinet decision, Jerusalem television said the establishment of the committee "surprised many people" in light of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statements opposing an official investigation and viewing the Pollard affair as "closed." However, Shamir realized that it would be impossible to avoid a real investigation when he became aware of the "full import of U.S. criticism of Israel" and the "very real" dangers to Israel's position in the United States, the television said.

Lebanon

Clash in South — An IDF officer was killed and another Israeli soldier was injured in a 12 March clash with a "terrorist gang" north of Bint Jubayl, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by IDF radio. Beirut radio said the officer was killed in an ambush by "national resistance fighters."

AUB Arrests — Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an explained Syrian measures at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in a statement reported by Beirut radio, asserting that Syrian forces detained and interrogated "certain suspect individuals" who had tried to "conceal themselves among the students in order to create security rifts." While the Syrians are "anxious to safeguard the freedom of political action in all forms," they will deal strictly with any security violations at the AUB and have taken measures that will guarantee its security, he added. In a related report, AFP said the Syrians were still detaining 3 of 15 arrested AUB students. A death threat to "butcher" Kan'an was issued by an organization calling itself the "Lebanese Liberation Front," according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Hostage Threat — The Revolutionary Justice Organization threatened to execute a French hostage if the French prime minister fails to clarify President Francois Mitterrand's statements on hostages and military aid to Iraq, AFP reported 12 March.

Egypt

Threats to Israelis — The secret organization "Egyptian Revolution" has threatened to kill any Israelis participating in the Cairo international fair due to open 14 March, Voice of Lebanon radio reported citing a 12 March *Al-Wafd* report. The paper added that the Israeli envoy to Cairo has also received threats.

Rioters Released — The Supreme Security Court has decided to release 203 Central Security Force conscripts arrested in February 1986 for disturbances and mutiny, QNA announced.

Algeria-Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd was greeted by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid upon arrival in Algiers 11 March, Riyadh radio stated. In a statement reported by SPA, King Fahd praised the friendship ties between the countries and affirmed that efforts to expand them will be made.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Lazar Mojsov, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, for a "lengthy" exchange of views 11 March, TANJUG reported.

On 10 March, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi led a delegation to Tunis for talks on joint cooperation, Tripoli radio disclosed.

Iran

A Soviet Foreign Ministry delegation headed by Lev Isaakovich Mendelevich arrived in Tehran for talks 11 March, IRNA noted.

Pakistani-Afghan Talks

Differences between Kabul and Karachi over the timetable for Soviet troop withdrawal from the DRA were not solved at the recent Geneva talks, according to a Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman cited by Karachi radio. The talks did, however, reinforce Pakistan's optimism about a political settlement on Afghanistan.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Wakil Returns to Kabul From Geneva Talks

LD111801 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Abdol Wakil, PDPA Central Committee member and foreign minister, returned to Kabul this morning after heading a delegation to Geneva to take part in the third phase of the seventh round of talks between the DRA and Pakistan, in order to achieve a political situation of the events around Afghanistan.

Comrade Abdol Wakil and his accompanying delegation were welcomed at Kabul Airport by Comrade Aslam Watnajar, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and minister of communications; Deputy Minister Sarferaz Mohmand; Adviser Sakhi Daneshjo; the head of protocol and a number of heads of departments of the Foreign Ministry; and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev.

Karachi on Mujahidin Offensive in Nangarhar

BK120246 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce clashes between mujahidin and Soviet-Kabul forces. Mujahidin rocket and mortar attacks on the subdivisional headquarters in Moqor on the Kabul-Qandahar highway on 27 February set fire to administrative office buildings. In this operation, five Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed and a tank was damaged. Mujahidin also attacked the security post at (Gaddi Ghaur) in Nangarhar Province killing four Soviet-Kabul soldiers. The reports also say that mujahidin shot down a Soviet plane and two helicopters at the biggest military base of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan near (Dosarka) about 15 km from Baghran.

Briefs

Import-Export Accord With USSR — Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR — An agreement between the DRA and the Soviet Union for setting up two joint stock import-export enterprises by the names of Aftorg and Aftento was signed here today. The enterprises will have an initial capital of 200 million afghanis, sixty per cent of which will be [word indistinct] by the Afghan side and the remaining forty per cent will be shared by the Soviet side. Aftorg will import electrical appliances, porcelains, toilet items, utencils, nails, locks, chemicals, and home equipment from the Soviet Union to the DRA. It will also import televisions, air conditioners, motor vehicles and bicycles, and other industrial commodities from the Soviet Union to Afghanistan. In return the enterprises will export traditional Afghan commodities to the Soviet Union. [Text] *[Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0511 GMT 11 Mar 87 LD]*

Romania's President Ceausescu Continues Visit

Meets Steel, Mines Minister

BK111410 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Romania is to purchase 10 million tons of iron ore and pellets from the Kudremukh plant at Mangalore. The visiting Romanian president, Mr Ceausescu, told the steel and mines minister, Mr K.C. Pant, who called on him today that his country will take necessary steps for implementing the agreement on the Mangalore pellet plant.

Meanwhile, the two countries continued bilateral discussions today. During their hour-long meeting, the minister of state for external [affairs], Mr Eduardo Faleiro, and the Romanian minister of foreign affairs, Mr Totu, discussed issues like disarmament, situation in Europe, Indochina, and Southeast Asia. The Africa Fund also figured in the talks.

Ends Visit; Leaves Delhi 12 Mar

BK121029 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] The Romanian president, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, left New Delhi this morning after his 3-day state visit to the country. He was seen off at the airport among others by the president, Giani Zail Singh; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; his ministerial colleagues; and diplomats. Before departure he inspected an interservices guard of honor and was given a 21-gun salute.

During his stay, Mr Ceausescu had wide-ranging discussions with the prime minister on international issues and matters of mutual interest. A high-level delegation accompanying the Romanian president held talks with other Indian leaders. Two agreements on scientific and technical cooperation and on avoidance of double taxation were signed. Romania has offered to purchase 10 million tons of iron ore and pellets from Kudremukh plant at Mangalore.

Delhi Reviews Visit

BK121140 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 87

["Spotlight" program: "The Romanian President's Visit to India," by Uma Shankar Fardnis, foreign affairs analyst]

[Text] The Romanian president, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, is by no means a stranger to India and Indian leaders, for this is the second official visit here. Besides, he had stopped over in Delhi on way to other Asian capitals twice earlier. And Mrs Indira Gandhi had visited Bucharest when she was prime minister and had extensive talks with Mr Ceausescu. Under the circumstances, Mr Ceausescu's present visit and the talks he had with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, can be seen as part of the process of a continuing dialogue between Romania and India at the highest level. His present visit, however, has a distinct significance of its own because it has taken place when the global political environment is quite different from the one that prevailed during his earlier official visit here in 1969.

For Mr Rajiv Gandhi, however, this is the first opportunity for exchange of views with Mr Ceausescu on his assessment of the new leadership that had taken over in the Soviet Union and the policy initiatives of a far-reaching character, which Mr Gorbachev had taken both on domestic and foreign fronts.

Mr Ceausescu appears to have been prompted to visit India by his desire to know Mr Gandhi personally and acquaint himself with his thinking on global problems, both as the Indian prime minister and as leader of the Nonaligned Movement. Not surprising, therefore, Mr Gandhi and Mr Ceausescu had extensive discussions all by themselves, for as long as 2 hours before the respective aides joined them for two more delegation-level talks. Not surprisingly either, with no contentious bilateral issues to worry them, Mr Gandhi and Mr Ceausescu should have devoted much of their time at the talks to issues of nuclear disarmament and the global political situation over which both the leaders have repeatedly expressed their respective concerns.

The details of the talks between Mr Ceausescu and Mr Gandhi are not fully known, but the speech with the Romanian president at the banquet held in his honor by the president, Giani Zail Singh, is a clear indication of an identity of views of India and Romania on nuclear disarmament and developments that have taken place in central Europe and South Asia. Both Giani Zail Singh and Mr Ceausescu dwelt on the question of nuclear disarmament and a cutback in conventional weapons and troops in their banquet speeches. And in this context they addressed themselves to the poliltical environment of the respective countries.

It is in this context that Giani Zail Singh pointedly referred to India's South Asian policy and explained at some length the approach the government had taken to promote a dialogue with the countries of the region to defuse tension where it existed and to promote regional cooperation. While taking note of some of the positive developments in the situation the president had also to take note of the negative ones, which neutralized efforts for a harmonious climate of opinion in the region.

For his part Mr Ceausescu dealt with the situation in central Europe. He took note of the latest proposal of Mr Gorbachev on the withdrawal of medium range missiles from Europe. Welcoming Mr Gorbachev's proposal, he expressed the hope that the United States would respond positively in a manner which would be conducive to the elimination of nuclear weapons from Europe.

Mr Ceausescu also took the opportunity of reiterating the demand for converting the Balkans into a nuclear-free and chemical weapons-free zone, for which Romania has been advocating for quite some time now. He also emphasized the need for dismantling foreign military bases in the region. A cause of concern for both Romania and India is a propensity of superpowers to intervene and interfere in the domestic situations of third countries. In this context Ceausescu expressed Romania's stand of opposition to the use of force or the threat to use it and pleaded for the settlement of conflicts in various parts of the world through a negotiated political means.

It was not as though Mr Ceausescu's talks with Mr Gandhi were solely devoted to global issues. Discussions for further cooperation between India and Romania took place at delegation levels. And thanks to the spade work that had been done earlier, two agreements were signed to foster closer economic and trade ties. There was firstly the decision taken to increase trade between the two countries by as much as two and a half times. To implement this decision, a trade agreement was initialed under which specific areas were identified for long-term economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. These include steel, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals.

It was also agreed that the two countries should explore possibilities of setting up joint ventures. A move the two countries have taken to facililtate such cooperation is the signing of a tax avoidance convention which, among other things, enjoins the respective countries to prevent the burden of double taxation. The convention provides that the enterprises of one country will be taxed only if they carry on business in that country through a permanent establishment. Under the provisions of the convention, income from royalties fee for technical services, dividend, and interest will be taxed at concessional rates. The commerce minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, signed the agreements on behalf of Indir while his counterpart, Mr Dimitrie Ancuta, signed for Romania.

This apart, considering the high priority accorded to the energy sector, the talks which the energy minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, had with Mr Ancuta acquire significance. In fact, Mr Sathe disclosed that the two countries have identified many power projects — both thermal and hydro — for which techno-economic feasibility reports had already been prepared. Everything said thus, whether it be on the global political situation or on bilateral Indo-Romanian relations, Mr Ceausescu has good reason to return home satisfied with the outcome of his visit and the talks he had with Mr Gandhi.

PDRY Prime Minister Meets Gandhi 11 March

BK111640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi this evening. Dr Sa'id arrived in the capital today while on his way to Beijing. In a statement at the airport, he said his talks with Mr Gandhi will help increase the cooperation between the two countries for global peace within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement. He is scheduled to leave for the Chinese capital early in the morning tomorrow.

Extradition Treaty With Canada Detailed

BK111648 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1536 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Paragraph numbering throughout as received]

[Text] In response to a question by Shri Ram Chandra Vikal and others as to:

(B) What are the details of the extradition treaty recently signed between India and Canada;

(B) How many Sikh extremists India wants to extradite from Canada and how many Canada wants to get back similarly from India and details thereof: and

(C) Whether the extradition treaty signed by India and Canada will check to an appreciable extent the help of all kinds being given to Punjab terrorists by their sympathisers in Canada: If so, what are the details thereof?

Shri K. Natwar Singh, MOS [minister of state], stated in Rajya Sabha on 24th February that:

(B) The treaty entered into force on 10/2/1987. The details of the treaty are as follows:

To be eligible for extradition a conduct should be an offence not only under the laws of India but also under the laws of Canada. The treaty provides that any offence punishable with imprisonment by more than one year under the laws of both India and Canada would be eligible for extradition. In this regard, even offences relating to taxation or revenue or others of purely fiscal character would also be eligible for extradition.

2. The treaty also specifies a list of more serious offences like:

I) Offences against safety of civil aviation;
II) Unlawful seizure of aircraft;
III) Crimes against internationally protected persons including diplomatic agents;
IV) Offences related to terrorism;
V) Murder, manslaughter, assault causing bodily harm, kidnapping, hostage-taking, offences involving serious damage to property or disruption of public facilities;
VI) Offences relating to firearms, weapons, explosives, or dangerous substances; and
VII) Any attempt or conspiracy to commit any of these offences, which shall not be regarded as political offences or offences of a political character for purposes of extradition.

3. Under the treaty, extradition is possible for all eligible offences whether committed before or after this treaty comes into force.

4. Under this treaty each country will have jurisdiction to try and punish offenders committing crimes within its own territory, when the offender is found in that territory. However, in determining the jurisdiction of one's own courts, in such situations, under this treaty, India and Canada will be able to consider grave and immediate effects or consequences of the offence in question on or in the other territory, with a view to see if extradition could be provided.

5. The treaty also provides for proper legal safeguards for all the accused and due process of law without discrimination as to race, religion, colour, or ethnic origin.

6. The treaty provides for various grounds for denial of extradition which are in accordance with the Indian and Canadian constitutional law and enactments and policy in respect of extradition.

7. The treaty also provides for an obligation to submit the case to one's own competent authorities for prosecution where a request for extradition is not granted.

8. The treaty provides, in case of urgency, for the provisional arrest of the person sought.

9. The treaty in its other provisions also incorporates standard principles and procedures governing the law of extradition.

(B) There are some pending cases of extradition between India and Canada which each side is free to renew after the signing of the Indo-Canadian extradition treaty on 6th February, 1987.

(C) As stated above in (A) the treaty is expected to deal with various kinds of offences that are punishable for more than one year under the laws of India and Canada and will not allow the offenders to take the plea of political crime in the case of serious offences such as murder, manslaughter, grievious bodily harm, offences against diplomats and other protected persons, safety of civil aviation and air travel.

Sri Lankan 'Offer' in Jaffna Termed 'Ploy'

BK121300 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Official circles in New Delhi have dismissed as a propaganda ploy the Sri Lankan Government's offer to relax the blockade in the Jaffna peninsula. According to PTI, these circles said the Jayewardene government should realize the futility of a military solution to the ethnic conflict. The sooner it is realized, the better for all concerned.

The agency points out that the human rights commission and several other countries have expressed concern over media reports about violation of human rights in Sri Lanka and Colombo's attempts for a military solution. They said continued military blockade of the Tamil dominated Jaffna peninsula will only increase the risk of violence.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr Tilakaratna, met the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, today.

'Pirate Station' Said Broadcasting From Sri Lanka

BK120640 Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] A powerful, short-wave transmission emanating from Sri Lankan territory has started increasingly vociferous 'pro-Khalistan' broadcasts.

Meant for "North Indian listeners", the programme of about two hours' duration every day is in Punjabi and English. Over the last few weeks, broadcasts have been concentrating on the "historic importance of Gen A. S. Vaidya's assassination... contributed handsomely to the cause".

The transmission on frequencies of 7010 khz in the 41 meter band and 9705, 9675, and 9560 khz in the 31 meter bands are in the morning and late evening hours.

The clandestine broadcast on the 7010 khz channel is a clear intrusion into the Radio Hams' bands, where no other broadcasting activity is allowed.

The transmission calls itself 'The Voice of Tamil Eelam' [VOTE]. There already exists a station of the same name, considered very popular and of older version. However, there is no similarity whatsoever between the contents of the two broadcasts. While the pro-Khalistan broadcasts primarily engage in spreading anti-India sentiments, the older clandestine activity is more in tune to its name, and has been broadcasting items concentrating on the ethnic issues in the island.

What has given credence to the fact that "pseudo" VOTE is operating from Sri Lankan territory is that this radio activity overcomes jamming from Eelam militants. Communications experts and experienced 'Hams' believe that this pirate station is using Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation's transmitting facility at Ekala near Colombo which is equipped with two 100 kilowatt and three 35 kilowatt transmitters, adequate enough to reach north India.

The first indication of the hostile radio programming targeted to North India was confirmed when in January last listeners monitored the Anti-India broadcasts in Mhow in Madhya Pradesh.

Punjab Governor Speaks Against Disruptive Forces

BK111307 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Sidhartha Shanker Ray, has called upon the people of the state to meet the challenge posed by fundamentalist and disruptive forces. Addressing the state legislative assembly on the opening day of the budget session in Chandigarh today, he said these forces are weakening the collective resolve of the people to stand together. These challenges and the tasks ahead call for concerted efforts and constructive endeavor and the ability to rise above narrow partisan considerations. It is necessary at this moment to reaffirm the nation's sacred values without fear. He reiterated the govenment's commitment to fight terrorism and restore peace in Punjab.

Paying glowing tributes to the late Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, Mr Ray described him as a symbol of moral resurgence. He said the All-Party Convention in Chandigarh on the 1st of this month symbolized the powerful response of the nation to the call issued by the Longowal village convention in favor of moderation.

Soon after the governor started addressing the House, the leader of breakaway group of the Akali Dal, Captain Amrinder Singh, along with other members of his group staged a walkout raising slogans.

President of Sikh Temple in Punjab Killed
BK111645 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] In Punjab, the president of the gurdwara [Sikh temple] (Tahiley) Sahib near Tanda in Hoshiarpur District, Mr Harba chan Singh, was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen last night. He was attacked inside the gurdwara.

An old man was killed by terrorists near (Manuchal) village in Amritsar District today when he was pulled out of a bus and shot.

4 killed in 11 Mar Amritsar, Ludhiana Incidents
BK120450 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] In Punjab, a boy was shot dead by two suspected terrorists in Tarn Taran town of Amritsar District last night. The culprits escaped after the incident.

In Ludhiana, three persons — a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] and a Nihang [a Sikh sect] and a teenage girl were killed in an exchange of fire between a group of Nihangs and a combined party of police and CRPF last night. The police party had gone there to evict the Nihangs from illegally occupied land.

Paper Comments on Pakistan's Nuclear Ambitions
BK111509 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English
4 Mar 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Make Bombs, Not War"]

[Text] To observers beyond the subcontinent, the ups and downs of the India-Pakistan relations must often seem like a delightful yo yo, but now the nuclear threat takes the fun out of the game. On the face of it though, play goes on, both at the foreign secretaries' level and on the cricket field. Even after Dr Abdul Qadir Khan's sensational disclosures, Mr Abdus Sattar and Mr Alfred Gonsalves signed an agreement on defusing tension along the border. This virtually completes the de-escalation process begun in New Delhi last month, while allaying Islamabad's fears about operation Brass Tack — which is to continue as scheduled — and with regard to the sealing of the Punjab border by Indian troops. And, while New Delhi ensured that President Zia did not extract the kind of political mileage he might have expected from his Jaipur trip, the visit undoubtedly helped to reduce war psychosis at the popular level. To that extent Dr Qadir Khan's disclosures about Pakistan's nuclear prowess could not have been worse timed. From his highly convoluted semi-denials it would seem that Dr Khan did indeed make most of the remarks attributed to him. In fact, by complaining of unethical practice, and of a "private" conversation being reproduced, Dr Khan in effect admits that the report is accurate in substance.

However, it has to be admitted that the Pakistani scientist's claims are no revelation, although they confirm many earlier suspicions. Reports in American Press suggested last November that Islamabad was only "two screw driver turns" away from possessing a full-fledged nuclear bomb, and had detonated a triggering device some time between September 18 and September 21. Dr Khan has now confirmed the story, adding that Pakistan is capable of enriching Uranium to 93.5 percent which makes it weapons grade. He has even gone on to boast that Pakistani scientists have achieved in 7 years what their Indian counterparts took 12 to do, and that his country's plutonium reprocessing capabilities are way ahead of India's. By describing American media account of Pakistan's nuclear accomplishments as "corect", Dr Khan has thus only reaffirmed what was already widely suspected.

The astonishing aspect of the disclosure, however, is Dr Khan's assertion that the CIA knows about all this. President Reagan's decision to seek a further 6-year waiver on the Symington Agreement [as published] assumes a sinister dimension in this context. In other words, the Reagan administration, which ritually denounces nuclear proliferation in passionate language, is apparently prepared to ignore the information gathered by its own espionage agencies in order to assist the conventional militarization of a nuclear Pakistan. With President Reagan bending over backwards to please General Zia, the much-maligned Nixon-Kissinger "tilt" of the early seventies now seems an almost innocent gesture. That India-U.S. relations will suffer a sharp setback in light of the latest evidence of Washington's hypocrisy hardly bears emphasizing. At home more and more people are bound to ask what further proof the government requires before reviewing its nuclear policy. If Pakistan can make a bomb and claims it is for peaceful purposes only, India too may be under pressure to manufacture a bomb, even only for display.

Defense 'Preparedness' Not Against Any Country

BK120825 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said Pakistan wants peace but cannot be oblivious to its defense needs. Addressing the 75th president's parade at the Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul, this morning, he said our defense preparedness is not against any country nor we have any aggressive designs against anybody. He said a strong defense and constant vigilance is the only guarantee to our security.

Earlier, the president took salute and reviewed the parade. The Qaid-i-azam banner was awarded to Salahuddin company while the sword of honor to a battalion's senior under officer (Sabrar Malik). The president's gold medal was given to battalion's senior under officer, Atiqur Rahman.

Defense Program Relates 'Totally' to Security Needs

BK111602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Pakistan has said that it is optimistic about a political settlement on Afghanistan. The progress achieved at the recently concluded round of proximity talks in Geneva reinforces this optimism. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad that the difference between Pakistan and the Kabul administration on setting the period for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which was more than 3 and 1/2 years at one time, has now been reduced to less than a year and it could be discussed at the negotiations. He said, according to reports the Soviet foreign minister announced in Bangkok that Kabul had set 22 months as the time for the troop pullout and later the Kabul representative reduced it further at the Geneva talks. But the difference of opinion on this matter has not been removed. The spokesman added that Pakistan has exhibited a flexible attitude on this matter, but it remains firm on its principled stand that the time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan should be appropriate and brief. [passage omitted]

The spokesman clarified that Pakistan wants neither to participate in an arms race in South Asia, nor does it have resources for this. Commenting on the colossal increase in India's defense budget for 1987-88, the spokesman said that Pakistan's defense budget and its entire defense program totally relate to its security concerns. Pakistan's resources are very limited and it wants to divert its entire attention toward its economic progress. The spokesman said the Indian defense budget for this year is 43 percent more than its last year's defense budget which is unprecedented. A $3 billion increase in the Indian defense budget itself is more than Pakistan's total defense budget of approximately $2.3 billion. The spokesman said the statements by the leaders of the Indian Government on the so-called arms race in South Asia and acquisition of arms by Pakistan and the propaganda carried out by [words indistinct] belies all facts. Indian journalists have tried to support these statements through fabricated stories whose only aim is to divert attention from the enormous increase in the Indian defense budget.

Defense Production Agreement Signed With Turkey

BK111647 Karachi Domestic Service in English
16000 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan and Turkey have signed a memorandum of understanding for mutual collaboration in the fields of defense production and technical services. Both countries have resolved to develop cooperation in the fields of defense production and services through procurement, joint production, technical services, and mutual assistance in research and development. The federal finance minister, Mr Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, and the Turkish minister for national defense, Mr Zeki Yuvuzturk, signed the memorandum in Islamabad today on behalf of their governments. Earlier, they exchanged views on defense production facilities available in the two countries. The Turkish defense minister this morning visited the heavy [word indistinct] factory at Taxila and the Pakistan ordnance factory at Wah.

Turkish Minister Meets Ziaul Haq

BK120441 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Turkish Defense Minister Zeki Yuvuzturk called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday evening. They exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in various fields. The president expressed happiness that a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries for cooperation in the fields of defense production and technical services.

Protocol on Power Generation Signed With DPRK

BK111357 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Under a protocol signed in Islamabad today, Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are to cooperate in the field of hydropower generation. The cooperation in this field is to begin with the installation of hydropower stations at two places in Azad Kashmir. After signing the protocol on behalf of the Pakistan Government, the federal finance minister, Mr Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto, said the two countries have agreed to cooperate in the meaningful ways in important sectors, including power generation and mineral exploration. The DPRK minister for foreign trade, Mr Choe Chong-kun, who signed the protocol on behalf of his government, said the DPRK is ready to extend cooperation in connection with implementation of the [Pakistani] prime minister's 5-point socioeconomic uplift program.

DPRK Minister Views Talks; Departs

BK120439 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] DPRK Minister for Foreign Trade Choe Chong-kun has expressed total satisfaction over the outcome of his talks with Pakistani leaders. Before his departure from Islamabad after his 5-day visit to Pakistan he expressed the hope that the talks will help in further promoting the friendly relations between Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He said there

are bright prospects in further promoting the cooperation between the two countries.

Minister Says Afghan 'Khad Agents' in Peshawar

BK120849 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] The National Assembly was told this morning that the federal government in cooperation with the Northwest Frontier Province NWFP government is making serious attempts to sort out the subsistence problem of poppy growers in the NWFP. The interior minister, Mr Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak, informed the House during question hour that the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board has launched longterm development schemes with a number of international agencies for the development of these areas. In addition, the prime minister has recently sanctioned 10 million rupees to be distributed in (Gadum-Amazai) area as maize compensation.

In reply to a question the interior minister said special squads with wireless sets and sophisticated arms have been established to remain watchful of saboteurs and the agents. He said Khad agents of Afghanistan are working in the northern areas of the country, especially Peshawar. He said there had been over 150 bomb blasts in the 4 provinces during last year.

SRI LANKA

Cabinet Decides To 'Review' Jaffna Fuel Ban

BK111336 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Colombo, March 11 (AFP) — The government decided Wednesday to review its fuel embargo on the northern Jaffna peninsula to relieve civilian hardship without aiding separatist guerrillas, official sources said.

Presided over by President Junius Jayewardene the cabinet also decided to expedite the release of Tamil detainees who had not been charged or those over 40 years old who were not seriously involved in separatist activity, the sources said.

The government imposed the fuel embargo when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the strongest separatist group, said it would set up its own civilian administration on the peninsula in January. Local witnesses in Jaffna say fuel supplies are extremely low with few vehicles on the streets.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi urged Mr Jayewardene last month to lift the fuel embargo and halt military operations against the separatists if India was to continue its mediatory efforts. Mr Jayewardene said he would do so if the separatists first ceased all hostilities and agreed to negotiate.

The cabinet decided to hold by-elections in vacant parliamentary seats in the northern and eastern provinces, except in the Jaffna peninsula, as early as possible to restore democracy in those areas where the security forces have strengthened their control, the sources added.

The seats fell vacant when members of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party, refused to take an oath vowing to uphold the country's unitary constitution. The oath was introduced in August 1983 following the outbreak of communal violence, which has reportedly claimed 5,000 victims to date.

Moros, Arabs Among Jaffna 'Terrorists' Denied

BK111105 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] A statement issued by the Media Center denies a report which appeared in some local newspapers that Filipino Moro rebels and Arabs were among the terrorists in Jaffna. The reports said that some foreigners, including those who appear to be Caucasians, Filipinos, and Sikhs, who were allegedly recognized by their turbans, were seen by some of the Tamil people in Jaffna and by others connected with the security operations there. The Federation of Assemblies of Muslim Youths in Sri Lanka in a communique states that the denial by the Media Center will help to prevent any damage being caused to the Sri Lanka-Arab relationship as a result of such acts of disinformation.

SUN Says Peacemaking Not Gandhi's 'Forte'

BK061259 Colombo SUN in English 27 Feb 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Good Riddance"]

[Text] What exactly does India want of us? Was the note sent by the President and the Government of Sri Lanka to the Prime Minister and the Government of India and subsequently reiterated from the rostrum of Parliament, not sufficient indication of Sri Lanka's willingness to accept the three point ultimatum of Rajiv Gandhi? Or as we suspect is India unable or unwilling to underwrite the cessation of terrorist campaigns as demanded by Lanka?

Is the present exercise a way out for India?

Has Rajiv Gandhi made any effort to sell his proposals to the party of the other part?

We demand to know.

Are we then to conclude that in the guise of 'honest broker' India has all along deliberately led us up the garden path, and inveigled us to commit ourselves, in stages, to accept the terrorist demands? Is the present withdrawal of its mediatory role by India the prelude to extort further concessions leading to separation?

The speech from the Ghandi at New Delhi bristles with wrong and undiplomatic references to the measures adopted by the government of Sri Lanak vis-a-vis the ethnic problem.

Following the heels of that unnecessary and provocative speech, the Indian Prime Minister compounded this diplomatic faux pas by telling his Parliamentary party that India will not continue its mediatory role if Sri Lanka continues its military action. This was later repeated by his Foreign Minister in a prepared speech to the Lok Sabha.

Sri Lanka has already bent herself backwards in her efforts to heal this unfortunate and bleeding wound in our body politic. Lanka even ate humble pie by accepting India's offer of her good offices to end the travail that has befallen this peace loving country and peoples. Used, as he is to mouthing blunt, curt orders from the cockpit, untrained in the arts and language of diplomacy, Rajiv Gandhi often, too often, puts his foot in his mouth — as he did at Harare and more recently in New Delhi. But we cannot and will not tolerate his taking Lanka for granted and riding roughshod into the midst of our internal affairs.

Now that he has withdrawn from the labours of a broker, let young Gandhi rest.

By these events it is apparent that peace making is not Mr Rajiv Gandhi's forte. He has only shown himself to be a modern day Don Quixote bent on adventuring in the hope that some knightly honours would stick on him and make him the recognised leader of Asia. He is obviously not made of the stuff of great statesmen.

Now that we are rid of the unwonted Indian intervention let us then (as Churchill would have said) to the task. — Let us hail this as Lanka's greatest moment and with one voice cry: Come let us all to the task of excising this cancer of communal disharmony and to the more exhilarating task of rebuilding our battered country and nation.

Musavi Denies Sale of 'T-72 Tanks' to U.S.

LD121303 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Prime Minister Huseyn Musavi said Thursday that the Islamic Republic of Iran still adheres to its stands on the need to establish a popular government in Afghanistan. "Such stands originate from both Iran's ideological beliefs and a logical image of the geopolitical future of the region," he added.

Speaking at the end of the government's Political Council session here, the premier described the resistance of the Afghan Muslim people against aggression as an "ideological act" and said that such a resistance cannot depend on provisional political issues.

In such cases, Musavi noted, political solutions would follow the struggle and full-scale resistance of nations.

Refuting a U.S. television network allegation, that Iran has sold T-72 tanks, seized by the Muslim combatants from Iraqi troops, to the U.S., Musavi said that Iraq is an instrument in the hands of Washington and therefore, to get anything possessed by the Iraqi Ba'thists, "Yankees" do not need anyboby [words indistinct].

Also in this meeting, Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh presented reports on his visits to Syria and some OPEC member countries respectively.

Khamene'i Urges Final Blow to Iraq's Weakened Army

LD112111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] This afternoon in the course of remarks made at the officer's college graduation day ceremonies, Supreme Defense Council Chairman Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i stressed: Today, when according to all international analysts, the enemy has become severely weakened, the best opportunity exists for delivering the final blows upon him. Commanders and Muslim combatants must not lose this golden opportunity to deliver the final blow to the rotten body of the army of the regime ruling over Iraq, all the more quickly and all the more strongly.

According to our reporter, the president, speaking at ceremonies marking the graduation of the students of the seventh course and the oath-taking ceremonies of students of the 17th course of the Officers' College of the Ground Forces, referring to the point that today the most skeptical observers in the world agree that the Zionist system ruling over Iraq is nearing its end and think that there is no future for Saddam's system, said: We are sure that in this clash, victory belongs to the Islamic side and to the self-sacrificing people of Iran.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Delegation Arrives

LD120754 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — A Soviet Foreign Ministry delegation headed by Lev-Isaakovich Mendelevich arrived here Wednesday night. The Soviet visit is taking place at the invitation of Political and International Office of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

During its stay in Iran, the Soviet delegation will hold talks with a number of Iranian officials on matters of mutual interest.

Envoy in Paris Holds 'Normalization' Talks

LD111500 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, March 11, IRNA — Iranian charge d'affaires to France Gholam Reza Haddadi held talks with head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the French National Assembly Roland Dumas here Tuesday on normalization of Tehran-Paris relations.

During the meeting, Mr Dumas expressed satisfaction over the positive trend of normalization of Iran-France relations, and called for strengthening of parliamentary relations between the two countries.

France's refusal to repay its debts to Iran is the major stumbling block in Theran-Paris relations. Iran granted a one-billion dollar loan to France's Atomic Energy Commissary in 1974.

Despite the French government's promise to unconditionally repay the loan to Iran, Paris has refused to shoulder its international undertakings under various excuses since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

France's total debt to Iran, including accrued interest on the loan, tops dlrs 2 billion according to estimates.

In December, 1986, Paris repayed dlrs 330 million to the Islamic Republic as partial payment on the loan.

Iranian and French officials are continuing talks aimed at ironing out Tehran-Paris financial disputes which are Iran's primary conditions for normalization of relations with France.

Roland Dumas, one time foreign relations minister in the French socialist government, is among French officials who favor a return to normalcy in Tehran-Paris relations.

The first round of talks aimed at patching up Tehran-Paris financial dispute was held while Dumas served as French foreign relations minister.

Aqazadeh Views Visits to OPEC Member Countries

LD112120 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here upon his return from visits to some OPEC member countries Wednesday that his talks with his Saudi Arabian, Algerian, Libyan, UAE, and Gabonese counterparts had led to some decisions being made on measures to be taken by OPEC next summer.

Aqazadeh told reporters here that whatever the oil market situation in the future, OPEC would steer an appropriate course.

The oil minister reiterated that in his talks with the leaders and oil ministers of the above-mentioned countries there was no difference of opinion and that they fully agreed with the need to coordinate their common stands.

OPEC would rather its member states take decisions on stabilizing the oil market through exchange of visits and continued contacts, Aqazadeh said, noting that there is no need for OPEC to hold an extraordinary session before its scheduled meet.

The oil minister said that visits by OPEC oil ministers to each other's countries are in fact "mobile" meetings of the organization.

Aqazadeh also pointed to the "false" reports by the Western media that OPEC members were violating their organization-assigned quotas, saying that OPEC would no longer pay attention to such news because "time has long since passed for dissent among OPEC member countries."

He stressed that OPEC is now pursuing a single policy which is the observance of all its approvals by member countries. Increase of oil prices to dlrs 18 p/b from below dlrs 16 is due to such "solidarity and unity" among OPEC members, he noted.

He said that oil ministers of those countries he visited had stressed that they would resist any attempt by foreign major oil companies or by oil consuming countries to undermine OPEC.

On his visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Aqazadeh said that the UAE amir had assured him that his country would observe its OPEC-assigned quotas.

The oil minister during his one-week visit travelled to OPEC member countries of Gabon, Algeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Iraq's 'War of Cities' Had No Effect on Fronts

LD111531 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1103 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Unattributed commentary: "Different Views on the Cessation or Continuation of the War of the Cities"]

[Text] Although the third round of the war of the cities which was started by the Iraqi regime has now come to an end, in view of present military and political conditions we should seriously prepare ourselves for any possibility of their repetition in the future. In the third round of the war of the cities, in which the Iraqi regime left behind a very thick file of war crimes, our nation and all the people of the world clearly realized the weakness of the Iraqi military and regime.

When the Iraqi regime announced that in retaliation for Iranian attacks at the fronts it would bomb cities, this was proof of its defeat and retreat at the fronts. It also demonstrated that the Iraqi regime could not take the initiative at the fronts or, at least, exert enough pressure to prevent the continuation of the operations. During this period 65 towns and cities of our country became the targets of savage enemy bombings; but the enemy also suffered heavy blows from our retaliation.

As the Iraqi regime is faced with many weaknesses, it has always tried to cover up its defeats and to portray them as victories to the Iraqi people. This is why it refrained from revealing its losses in these attacks. However, to achieve its holy goals, our nation endured all the hardships and adopted certain measures which rendered enemy attacks inffective.

The Iraqi war minister once openly announced that as long as forces were dispatched from the cities to the fronts, they would bomb the cities. These remarks, which would be most strange coming from a military officer under normal conditions, reveal the weakness and desperation of the rulers of Baghdad and show that their real aim in bombing the cities is to eliminate the support of our people for the war.

Now the third round of the war of the cities has come to an end. There are many views and analyses expressed by different sources regarding the reasons that forced the Iraqi regime to discontinue those attacks. A number of foreign commentators have said that the discontinuation of the bombings was a political decision, and that the Iraqi regime was forced to refrain from any action which would harm it in the international arena in light on moves at the United Nations and the Security Council regarding the war.

However, it seems that this analysis is not based on a solid foundation. Past experience has demonstrated that even if such factors do exist they have not played a restraining role in the past. In order to find a true reason one should again pay attention to the remarks of the Iraqi war minister, who has said that the aim of the attacks on the cities was to halt the dispatch of forces to the fronts.

During that period, the Iraqi regime and the world were faced with people's massive demonstrations on 11 February this year. In addition to Tehran, which was itself subjected to bombings, a mere glance at the demonstrations of the people of Bakhtaran, who perhaps endured the greatest hardships, makes it clear that not only was the Iraqi regime unable to weaken the people's support for the fronts; on the contrary, they were an added factor in encouraging people to rush to the battlefronts.

Thus, Iraq was quite unsuccessful in delivering blows at the morale of the people of our country. On the contrary, it achieved the opposite. The 'Karbala'-7" offensive and the continuation of operations in the "Karbala'-5" offensive zone clearly demonstrated that the war of the cities had absolutely no effect upon the battlefronts. In connection with Iraq's cease-fire in the war of the cities, only in effect for 2 weeks, Iraq's main mistake has been to announce that as soon as the Iranians resume their attacks at one of the battlefronts it will resume the bombings. However, in practice the Iranian fighters have under no circumstances been intimidated by this propaganda. They still have the initiative, and by continuing their operations in the south and starting new operations in the north of the fronts they forced the Iraqi regime shamefacedly to retreat further, without achieving anything as the result of its threats.

On the other hand, some military commentators have cited technical difficulties and the weakness of the Iraqi regime's armory as the reason for Iraq's decision to suspend the war of the cities. More than 100 enemy aircraft have been downed at the battlefronts since the beginning of the "Karbala'-5," "Karbala'-6," and finally "Karbala'-7" offensives, and also as the result of the anti-aircraft defense of the cities or in aerial engagements by the heroic pilots of the forces of Islam.

With the downing of an Iraqi MiG-25 from a height of 65,000 feet in Esfahan it was made clear that Iraqi aircraft are not safe even at high altitudes. Even a U.S. senator who went to Baghdad to investigate the losses suffered by Iraq said on his return to Washington that the Iraqi Air Force has lost at least 10 percent of its aircraft. Of course, this figure quoted by the Americans is less than the real figure.

In any case, the downing of more than 100 aircraft in less than 2 months inflicted a very heavy blow upon the Iraqi regime. In addition to that, according to a military estimate, the ammunition used by enemy aircraft during that period was equivalent to the arsenal of a country under normal conditions, and that cost a great deal for the Iraqi regime. The Iraqi regime should again turn to its supporters and allies so that it can replace them in the long term.

Briefly, in the war of the cities the Iraqi regime has failed in its aim of breaking the will of our people. It also committed another big mistake; namely, Iraq itself proved that the Iranian forces have the initiative at the battlefronts, and that it has also lost a great part of its weapons.

Nevertheless, a regime that takes a step backward each day and is disintegrating from within is likely to resort to any new action as soon as it aquires the necessary means for doing so, and to resume its crimes in order to save itself. Therefore, the people should still continue their main means of defense against air attacks by the enemy. They should continue mobilization for the construction of parapets and family and public shelters with the cooperation of the government so that they can demonstrate an example of steadfastness to the people of the world.

Five Battalions Leave Karaj for Battlefront

LD112147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The second convoy of the holy Mahdi's army, comprising five battalions of fresh troops, departed today for the battlefronts of light against darkness from the township of Karaj. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Contingent From Ilam Departs

NC120621 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Excerpt] We have received the following report on the departure for the fronts of the third contingent of the Al-Mahdi Corps from Ilam Province:

[Begin recording] The dispatch of the Al-Mahdi Corps to the fronts continues as the third contingent from Ilam Province, consisting of two battalions of trained, specialized, and reserve forces, left for the combat fronts chanting powerful slogans. They were seen off proudly by the province's Hezbollah people. These brave men, who come from the cities and districts of Ilam Province, repeatedly said that they will remain on the fronts until Saddam's 'Aflaqite regime falls. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Communique No 2,772 Updates Combat Operations

LD111535 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — At least 45 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and more than 10 gun emplacements, two munitions dumps, one 106 mm gun, one truck, several observation posts, and one command jeep were destroyed throughout the fronts on Tuesday and Wednesday. Announcing the above Wednesday, the 2772nd Joint Staff communique added that a convoy of Iranian patrols broke through numerous Iraqi barricades in a southern front early Wednesday, raiding enemy positions, and inflicting effective blows on enemy troops. The attacking Iranian forces returned safely to bases.

Early Tuesday, a group of Iranian Muslim combatants, backed by heavy artillery fire, stormed Iraqi positions in Kelaleh [name as received], southern fronts, killing or wounding at least 45 enemy soldiers and setting afire parts of enemy fortifications and one munitions dump. They all returned to their base safely.

Muslim forces of Iran continued fortifying their positions in the northwestern fronts especially in Hajj 'Umran Tuesday and their heavy fire on Iraqi positions inflicted considerable life and equipment losses on enemy troops. In the western fronts Tuesday, several Iraqi gun emplacements, one 106 mm gun, one truck, and several observation posts were set ablaze and destroyed by heavy Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi supply routes in parts of the southern and western fronts Tuesday, killing several Iraqi troops and destroying at least 10 enemy gun emplacements, one munitions dump, and one command jeep.

Movements of Iraqi vehicle columns on Sulaymaniyeh-Chuwartah axis were checked by heavy Iranian artillery fire on Tuesday. In Chananeh, a convoy of Iraqi patrols was forced to flee when shelled by Iranian artillery fire, the communique concluded.